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Message Text

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55
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSO-00 EB-04 /067 W
---------- 111184
R 142030Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WAHDC 6616

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 11317

DEPT PASS ALL OAS CAPITALS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: REPERCUSSIONS OF QUITO CONFERENCE

1. AT LUNCHEON TODAY THE DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR, BONILLA AYBAR, WHO OF ALL MY LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES IS THE BEST INFORMED, SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF CASUALTIES FROM QUITO.

2. FIRST OF ALL WOULD PROBABLY BE VENEZUELAN FONMIN SCHACHT, WHO HAD COME BACK NOT ONLY WITHOUT VICTORY BUT WITH EVERY APPEARANCE OF DEFEAT. THIS (AS CARACAS 11294 TODAY INDICATES) HAS PROMPTLY BEEN SEIZED UPON BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT OPPOSITION PARTY AND BY OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS IN VENEZUELA.

3. A REPERCUSSION FROM QUITO, SAID AMBASSADOR BONILLA, WOULD BE EFFECT ON PRESIDENT PEREZ'S HOPED FOR INTENTION TO CONVENE A MEETING OF HEMISPHERIC PRESIDENTS. MY COLLEAGUE SAID THAT UNTIL THE DEBRIS WAS CLEARED AWAY FROM THE QUITO CONFERENCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW OR WHERE OR WHEN A PRESIDENTIAL MEETING COULD BE HELD.

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4. A THIRD PROBABLE CASUALTY WOULD BE THE INITIATIVE OF GUYANA TO

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HOLD A CARIBBEAN SUMMIT CONFERNCE. THIS, SAID BONILLA, WOULD NOT
BE SO MUCH DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF QUITO BUT TO THE DAMAGING IMPACT
UPON CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES OF THE HIGH PRICE OF OIL. MOST OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IMPORT THEIR OIL FROM VENEZUELA, WHICH,
THEREFORE, BECAME THE CHIEF VILLAIN IN THEIR EYES WHEN THE PRICE
HAD GONE UP FROM $3 A BARREL TO $11. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
THEREFORE, HE THOUGHT THE MOMENT DISTINCTLY NOT PROPITIOUS
FOR A CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE. HE FELT IN GENERAL THAT THESE
COMBINING EFFECTS OF A HIGH OIL PRICE AND THE
DISARRAY OF THE QUITO CONFERENCE WOULD SET BACK MOVEMENTS TOWARD
REGIONAL ORGANIZATION CERTAINLY UNTIL AFTER THE BUENOS AIRES
MFM NEXT APRIL AND PERHAPS MUCH LONGER THEREAFTER.
MCCLINTOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAS CAPITALS.

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